



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Mark A. Borkowski, 11th District

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PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY OF MILWAUKEE NEEDED DURING TRANSIT FUNDING CRISIS

Committee fails to support prioritizing funding for bus service in Milwaukee County

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisor Mark A. Borkowski released the following statement after the County Board's Transportation, Public Works and Transit Committee failed to approve his resolution to collaborate with the City of Milwaukee to utilize \$55 million in federal funds to enhance the bus system in Milwaukee County:

"Today's vote is extremely disappointing. The Committee missed a rare opportunity to do what's best for our constituents. Using the City's portion of these long-dormant federal funds to invest in the bus system, which already serves downtown Milwaukee extensively, would help both the City and the County. My resolution aimed to work collaboratively with the City of Milwaukee to enhance transit services for the benefit of all transit users.

"It's my understanding that Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett would likely contract with the Milwaukee County Transit System (MCTS) to possibly operate a downtown streetcar. Taxpayers can't afford to have another service compete for precious transit aid, particularly when our existing bus service already connects downtown with nearly every neighborhood in Milwaukee.

"The State cut nearly \$7 million in transit aid to Milwaukee County for 2012. Any additional route cuts or fare increases would further decimate a transit system that is already on life support.

"The time to work together is now. Despite the inaction from the Committee today, I still stand ready to work together with Mayor Barrett and the Common Council to do what's right for our shared constituents in Milwaukee."

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